

OBEYING THE SPEED LIMIT

- Many Christians do not see the need to obey the speed limit as something they should consciously and intentionally do for the sake of the Gospel. It begs the question, should we obey man's laws? Yes | No | Maybe | Sometimes | Don't Know | Don't Care
- The argument could be made if Christians are not faithful in the small things, can God trust us with more responsibility? Luke 16:10
- So, how can we impact the world for Christ when we can't even get Christians to obey the speed limit? And if we don't obey good laws of the land, how can we expect unbelievers to do so?

DID YOU KNOW...If 20% disobey a law, then the law becomes unenforceable. Recall alcohol prohibition years & marijuana issues today

ARGUMENTS FOR SPEEDING

- Some of the arguments Christians use to justify speeding include:
 - ♦ The speed limit sign is the minimum or suggested speed limit
 - ♦ We are not obligated to keep man-made laws
 - ♦ It's safer to keep up with the flow of traffic
 - ♦ We don't need to be legalistic
 - ♦ It is not convenient
 - ♦ Everyone does it
- Do these arguments hold up in man's courts of law? In God's Court?
- Would such arguments justify smoking marijuana or consuming other illegal drugs? Are there higher moral/biblical laws to consider?

Higher Moral Code to Obey the Speed Limit & Other Good Laws of Men

Prov 28:9 [Prayers don't get answered] He who turns away his ear from heeding the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

Matt 5:13-18 [We need to preserve society's morals & set the example] You are salt of the earth [preserver]...and the light of the world [example]. So, let your good works be seen by others for them to give glory to God.

Rom 6:15 [We don't have the liberty to sin] What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? God forbid!

Rom 13:1-4 [When we intentionally violate good laws we deliberately do evil and sin against God] Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

1Cor 7:19 [What is important in life?] Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God.

James 4:17 [To disobey is sin] To one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

1Peter 1:15-16 [We are to be holy in all we do] Like the Holy One who called you, be holy [through obedience] in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1Peter 2:13-14, 17 [Obey the good laws of the land] Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers & the praise of those who do right.

1John 5:3 [Love = obedience] If we love God we will keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

DID YOU KNOW...The Govt deems the speed limit so important for the good of the nation that it post signs about 1 mile apart in urban areas – the most visible of all commands by the Govt or even by God. So, we have no excuse before God & man for not knowing what the maximum speed limit is.

Good Govt Laws	Biblical Teachings	God's Commands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay Taxes • Put Seatbelt On • Stop at Red Lights • Obey Speed Limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit yourselves to every human institution • Be in subjection to the governing authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay Taxes • Put Seatbelt On • Stop at Red Lights • Obey Speed Limit

ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS TO EXCEEDING THE SPEED LIMIT WITHOUT IT BEING A SIN?Theoretically, YES

- **Example:** What if a semi-trailer loses its breaks on a steep downhill and the only choice is to run you over if you do not go faster?
 - ♦ Do you get creamed to find favor with the Lord? 1Peter 2:20
 - ♦ Fortunately, Ecc 7:16 offers this: "Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you [get yourself killed]?"
 - ♦ BUT, please consider the context of this passage before using it to justify the continuous breaking of a good law...

Exception Clause to Justifying Speeding in Some Cases

Ecc 7:15-18. ...There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his wickedness. Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you destroy yourself? Do not be excessively wicked & do not be a fool. Why should you die early? ...Whoever fears God will avoid both extremes

Comments on this passage. Does this mean we can be a little wicked? NO. From Solomon's earthly perspective, we should avoid extreme legalistic behavior, and from a godly perspective we should always avoid known sin. AND don't forget to factor in the conclusion of Solomon's findings on his search for wisdom, "...fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to everyone" Ecc 12:13

Yes, exceeding the speed limit for a short period of time to prevent a wreck is quite appropriate and appreciated.

Another Example. Jesus broke the Sabbath Law, when it was still in effect, to heal 7 people, for the Sabbath was made for the benefit of the people

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- When we deliberately sin we essentially give God "the finger" and convey to Him, "This is what we think of You & Your Word"
 - ♦ Recall in the OT, there was no sacrifice for intentional sins. Such obstinate sinners were to be "cut off" Num 15:29-30; Heb 10:26
- So, what is the best way to positively influence an immoral society when many of God's own people are also intentional law-breakers?

ANSWER: If we can get more and more Christians to see the need to willingly and intentionally obey even seemingly trivial commands, e.g., the speed limit, we restore our saltiness to positively impact society and to address more complex issues because Christians will be more sensitized to keeping more of God's commandments.
- **Motivation to Obey the Speed Limit.** Every time we are obedient to even the smallest commands we reap untold rewards Rev 22:12. Considering the number of miles some of us put on the roads, can you imagine the rewards waiting for us every time we obey the speed limit? Plus, every time we obey any of God's commandments, more of our prayers get answered, we become good examples to live by, we have no reason to fear authority (i.e., the police car in our rear-view mirror), we become holy as God is holy, we position ourselves for praise from men and more blessings from God, and we show, not our finger, but our love for God and respect for His institutions and for the lives of others.
- **Final Thought.** If a driver speeds or recklessly drives and gets into an accident, he is on his own since he chose not to obey God's commandment to obey the good laws of the land. **HOWEVER,** if a Christian driver obeys the speed limit and other rules of the road and God allows him to get involved in an accident, God has the responsibility to work things out for his good..... Romans 8:28

